

## DOE Weekly Field Memo – April 22, 2009

### **From the Department:**

- ARRA Update from Commissioner Armando Vilaseca
- ARRA: IDEA-B Basic and Preschool Guidance for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009
- Application for Student Appointment to the State Board of Education
- 2008-2009 NCLB Instructional Paraprofessional Surveys
- Reminder: Free Support for Children of the National Guard and Reserve
- Update: Statewide Teacher Diversity Initiative
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### **ARRA Update from Commissioner Armando Vilaseca**

#### **Audience: Superintendents, Principals**

This memo includes the most recent information from Commissioner Armando Vilaseca about the expected use of ARRA funds, as well as how the department can increase school access to models that meet the assurances of the law. View the complete memo at:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery\\_act.html#update\\_2](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#update_2).

Contact: Rae Ann Knopf at (802) 828-0555 or [rae.knopf@state.vt.us](mailto:rae.knopf@state.vt.us)

### **ARRA: IDEA-B Basic and Preschool Guidance for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)**

#### **Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Administrators, Educators**

This memo includes preliminary guidance on several important topics regarding the ARRA funds, including an overview of the purposes of the ARRA funds; principles and suggestions for use of these funds; information we have at this time about the distribution, tracking and reporting of the funds and several areas you will need to pay particular attention to. There are non-supplanting requirements, proportionate share for parentally placed private school students and use of funds for coordinated early intervening services. We are planning to provide training and more specific guidance in the future. Go to: [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery\\_act.html#idea\\_b](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#idea_b).

Contact: Margaret Schelley at (802) 828-5119 or [margaret.schelley@state.vt.us](mailto:margaret.schelley@state.vt.us); or Karin Edwards at (802) 828-5118 or [karin.edwards@state.vt.us](mailto:karin.edwards@state.vt.us)

### **Application for Student Appointment to the State Board of Education**

#### **Audience: Principals, Educators, Guidance Directors, Career and Technical Center Directors**

The Governor's Office is seeking applications for the next student appointment to the State Board of Education. Vermont is one of the few states with a full voting student member on its State Board of Education. This is an exciting opportunity for Vermont's young people, and the Governor's office seeks your assistance in informing students of its candidate search. Secondary students who will graduate in 2011 or later are eligible for appointment to this two-year term on the Board; the term begins July 1, 2009. Interested students should complete and send the application, along with the other information required, by Friday, May 22, 2009 to Marty Searight via mail in care of the Governor's Office, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609-0101. Go to: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html#student> for more information and an application.

Contact: Carol King at (802) 828-5101 or [carol.c.king@state.vt.us](mailto:carol.c.king@state.vt.us).

### **2008-2009 NCLB Instructional Paraprofessional Surveys**

#### **Audience: Superintendents**

The 2008-2009 NCLB Instructional Paraprofessional Surveys were mailed last week to supervisory unions with Title I schools. Instructions for completing the survey, which can also be found at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/licensing/hqt.html#paraprofessional>, were included in the mailing. The superintendent should return a completed survey for each Title I school to the department by May 22. If you have any questions, or if your SU has Title I schools and you haven't received the surveys, please contact Lucinda Morabito at (802) 828-1455 or [lucinda.morabito@state.vt.us](mailto:lucinda.morabito@state.vt.us).

### **Reminder: Free Support for Children of the National Guard and Reserve**

#### **Audience: School Counselors, Administrators, Nurses**

The Military Child Education Coalition's **Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute** is a professional development program for educators and professionals to reach out in a support

network to the children and families of the National Guard and Reserve. The curriculum, content, process and delivery are correlated with the National Staff Development Council's Standards and the National Standards for School Counseling Programs. Because the Institute is very interactive and participation is required to fully benefit from this training, participants must commit to attend both days.

Date: May 5-6, 2009 Location: Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier,  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (registration and continental breakfast at 8:00 a.m.)

Deadline for registration: April 24, 2009

For more information visit <http://www.militarychild.org>. Cost: None - Funded by U.S. FMWRC-CYS.

Participants are responsible for travel and overnight accommodations.

Contact: Linda Neault at (254) 953-1923 or [Linda.Neault@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:Linda.Neault@MilitaryChild.org).

### **Update: Statewide Teacher Diversity Initiative**

#### **Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Other Administrators**

In an ongoing partnership between the Vermont Teacher Diversity Scholarship Program and the Vermont Department of Education, the VTDSP Executive Director is also now working as the Statewide Teacher Diversity Coordinator, uniting these initiatives to consider more holistically the solutions that can address Vermont's lack of educator workforce diversity. In the March 11th DOE field memo, we alerted you to our efforts and asked interested parties to be in touch. We've been pleased to connect with some of you!

Currently, when job seekers look for teacher or administrator positions in Vermont using SchoolSpring.com, the Teacher Diversity Initiative has a masthead banner on the search results page alerting them to our efforts. The response from this banner has been very strong, and we have a growing list of teachers from in and outside of Vermont who are looking for work and identify as from a diverse background. We have been making contact with school districts around the state in order to bring these candidates to your attention.

The VTDI repeats its commitment to helping districts and SUs around the state to connect with candidates from diverse backgrounds. If you're interested in diversifying your staff, we're interested in helping to think that through.

For more information: <http://www.vtdsp.org/what-we-do/statewide-teacher-diversity-coordination>

Contact: Jim Woodard, Statewide Diversity Coordinator, at (802) 540-1021 or [info@vtdsp.org](mailto:info@vtdsp.org).

### **State Board of Education Monthly Summary – April**

#### **Audience: All**

The State Board of Education produces a monthly report that is intended to update the public on Board activities and priorities. The reports are posted two weeks after a Board meeting and are made available for a six-month period of time. View the most recent report at

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly\\_reports](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports).

Contact: Carol King at (802) 828-5101 or [carol.c.king@state.vt.us](mailto:carol.c.king@state.vt.us).

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#### **Weekly Field Memo is Online!**

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html). Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us).

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.